

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions and listings of claims in the application:

1. (previously presented): A halftone dot producing apparatus for producing a plurality of halftone dot data representative of a plurality of monochromatic images in which a color image is separated, by applying threshold matrixes associated with colors to a plurality of multi-tone level image data representative of a plurality of monochromatic images in which a color image is separated, said halftone dot producing apparatus comprising:

a phase selection section for selecting a phase between at least a first threshold matrix of said threshold matrixes and a first monochromatic image represented by a multi-tone level image data to which said first threshold matrix is applied;

a phase control section for controlling a relative phase between said first threshold matrix and said first monochromatic image to implement the phase selected by said phase selection section; and

a data producing section for producing a plurality of halftone dot data representative of a plurality of monochromatic images in which a color image is separated, by applying threshold matrixes associated with multi-tone level image data representative of monochromatic images excepting said first monochromatic image, of said plurality of multi-tone level image data, to the multi-tone level image data representative of said monochromatic images excepting said first monochromatic image, of said plurality of multi-tone level image data, with a phase determined

on a fixed basis, and applying said first threshold matrix to multi-tone level image data representative of said first monochromatic image, of said plurality of multi-tone level image data, with the phase controlled by said phase control section.

2. (original): A halftone dot producing apparatus according to claim 1, wherein said phase selection section selects any one of a plurality of phases between a phase in which a Rosette pattern of a clear center appears on a color image represented by said plurality of halftone dot image data, and a phase in which a Rosette pattern of a dot center appears on the color image represented by said plurality of halftone dot image data.

3. (original): A halftone dot producing apparatus according to claim 1, wherein said phase control section controls a phase of said first threshold matrix for said first monochromatic image.

4. (original): A halftone dot producing apparatus according to claim 1, wherein said phase control section controls a phase of said first monochromatic image to said first threshold matrix.

5. (original): A halftone dot producing apparatus according to claim 1, wherein said halftone dot producing apparatus further comprises:

an image producing section for producing multi-tone level image data for evaluating a Rosette pattern; and

a display section for displaying a Rosette pattern on an image represented by an assembly of halftone dot image data obtained by applying the threshold matrixes to the multi-tone level image data produced by said image producing section.

6. (original): A halftone dot producing apparatus according to claim 5, wherein said image producing section produces multi-tone level image data representative of uniform images having uniform values throughout whole image areas as multi-tone level image data for evaluating a Rosette pattern.

7. (currently amended): A halftone dot producing apparatus according to claim 6, wherein said halftone dot producing apparatus further comprises:

a dot area percentage selection section for selecting a dot area percentage $[[,]]_i$; and
dot area percentage control means for controlling a relative value between thresholds constituting the threshold matrixes and a density level of the uniform image in such a manner that monochromatic images of the dot area percentage selected by said dot area percentage selection section can be obtained.

8. (previously presented): The halftone dot producing apparatus according to claim 1, wherein said halftone dot producing apparatus further comprises a handler for selecting a

phase between said first threshold matrix and said first monochromatic image, and said phase selection section selects the phase in accordance with an operation of said handler.

9. (original): A halftone dot producing apparatus according to claim 7, wherein said halftone dot producing apparatus further comprises a handler for controlling a dot area percentage, and said dot area percentage selection section selects the dot area percentage in accordance with an operation of said handler.

10. (currently amended): A computer-readable storage medium for storing a halftone dot producing program which causes a computer system to execute the steps of~~A halftone dot producing program storage medium for storing a halftone dot producing program which causes a computer system to operate, when the halftone dot producing program is executed in said computer system, as a halftone dot producing apparatus for producing a plurality of halftone dot data representative of a plurality of monochromatic images in which a color image is separated, by applying threshold matrixes associated with colors to a plurality of multi-tone level image data representative of a plurality of monochromatic images in which a color image is separated, wherein said halftone dot producing program storage medium stores a halftone dot producing program comprising:~~

~~a phase selection means for selecting a phase between at least a first threshold matrix of said threshold matrixes~~ associated with colors and a first monochromatic image represented by a multi-tone level image data to which said first threshold matrix is applied;

~~a phase control means for controlling a relative phase between said first threshold matrix and said first monochromatic image to implement the selected phase selected by said phase selection means; and~~

~~a data producing means for producing a plurality of halftone dot data representative of a plurality of monochromatic images in which a color image is separated, by applying threshold matrixes associated with multi-tone level image data representative of monochromatic images excepting said first monochromatic image, of said plurality of multi-tone level image data, to the multi-tone level image data representative of said monochromatic images excepting said first monochromatic image, of said plurality of multi-tone level image data, with a phase determined on a fixed basis, and applying said first threshold matrix to multi-tone level image data representative of said first monochromatic image, of said plurality of multi-tone level image data, with the controlled phase controlled by said phase control means.~~

11. (previously presented): The halftone dot producing apparatus according to claim 1, wherein the phase is user selected.

12. (previously presented): The halftone dot producing apparatus according to claim 1, wherein the phase is not tone dependent.

13. (previously presented): The halftone dot producing apparatus according to claim 1, wherein an angle of a screen of halftone dots in at least one of the plurality of halftone dot data is selected by a user.

14. (currently amended): The halftone dot producing apparatus according to claim 1, further comprising:

a threshold table selection section that selects a threshold table comprising a threshold matrix from a storage section in accordance with a predetermined dot shape, a predetermined line number and predetermined angle of halftone dots.

15. (previously presented): The halftone dot producing apparatus according to claim 1, wherein said phase selection section selects any one of a plurality of phases.